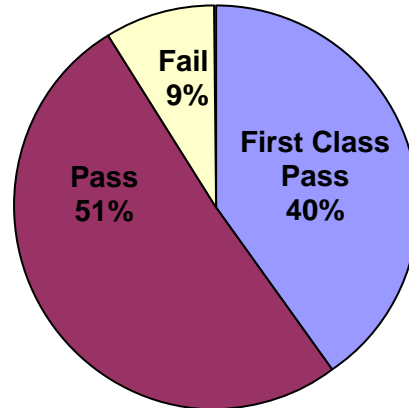


# 8985 International Spoken ESOL - Preliminary

## General observations

The results show a fair degree of consistency of performance with last year. There is a good Pass rate overall but a small changeover in the percentages of Passes and First Class Passes. This reflects a good ability to communicate with understanding at this Preliminary level but candidates would need to stretch themselves further to achieve a First Class Pass.

A1



## Areas of good performance

Candidates are generally well-prepared for the different parts of the examination and therefore know what to expect. Parts 1 and 3 are particularly well-executed, especially where candidates develop the interaction themselves.

## Areas for development

Candidates are reminded of the task focus of Part 2 which is 'speak to communicate'. Some exchanges are very brief and do not provide sufficient evidence of a candidate's ability. In Part 4, some candidates do not exploit fully the time allowed for a long turn (about a minute) and expect to be prompted by the interlocutor after only a short initial utterance. Some candidates allow their voices to drop and speak very softly.

## Recommendations

In Part 2, candidates should try to develop responses beyond a brief comment and extend the interaction so that it becomes a natural conversation rather than a question/answer session. In Part 4, candidates need more practice in speaking for a long turn without being prompted by an interlocutor. As the marker awards marks based on the evidence of the tape-recorded examination, candidates need to keep the voice up and not lower it at the end of an utterance.

## Tips

- Don't be afraid to ask for clarification or repetition – practise questions for doing this.
- Try to extend the interaction beyond one-word or very brief responses.
- Practise talking for one minute on a topic which you're interested in.
- Record your own voice and listen to it – then listen to your classmates. Can you hear everyone clearly?

**Additional comments**

City & Guilds wants its candidates to enjoy this first experience of its spoken examinations and continue up the levels. Whilst candidates are generally doing well at a basic level, they could be encouraged to expand their contributions. Further classroom preparation in spontaneous and natural conversations, beyond question and answer interludes, will be of great benefit. However, the interlocutor also plays an important part in avoiding asking closed questions, not asking too many questions (**up to 5** in Part 1) and allowing candidates to speak for the appropriate length of time.